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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED
 Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Border Observation Posts

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1. The Soviet military observation posts located near the Iranian border cover the area from the mouth of the Astara River up to Hasan-Khanlu (sic). Most of these watchtowers are constructed of iron and are managed and operated by a regular and systematic program. The observation post is a rectangular room with three or four openings which are used for observation. It is connected to the respective border post by telephone. The room is constructed of wood and is 1.30 meters long and 1.25 meters wide. Usually there are two, or occasionally three, Soviet soldiers in every observation post. One of the soldiers is engaged in observation, and the second soldier writes down everything which is dictated to him by the first observer. These soldiers are replaced by new ones once in two hours.

Coastal Observation Posts

2. Soviet military observation posts situated along the coast of the Caspian Sea from Soviet Astara (N 38-28, E 48-52) northward to Baku (N 40-25, E 49-50) are charged generally with the duty of reporting the arrival of merchant ships sailing between Soviet Astara, Lenkoran (N38-45, E 48-50), and Baku. The Soviets do not attach much importance to watchtowers along the Caspian coast, since they have naval units patrolling constantly in the vicinity of the coastal area. In addition, the Soviets are not worried about hostile and powerful naval units in the Caspian Sea which might cause trouble for the Soviet naval forces and coastal installations.
3. The observers stationed in the watchtowers of the coastal area can survey a distance of only four or five kilometers. The observation posts of Qizil-Aghaj, Port Pich (sic), and Lenkoran are not equipped as well as inland observation posts. However, the posts of Kalleh-Dahaneh (sic) and Astara are well equipped, and the observers are alert and vigilant.
4. From a military point of view, the structure of the coastal observation posts is similar to that of the border installations existing along the land boundaries between the Soviet Union and Iran, with the exception that the height of the watchtowers in the coastal area is less than that of the posts erected farther inland; the height of the former does not exceed eight meters. These towers are built of

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wood and do not appear to be strong and durable.

Comment. This is probably Kinyi-Agach (N 39-03, E 48-46).

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